27.50 crores, whereas the number of persons actually living in forests is 10.00 crores. The forest fringe villages comprise 28% of the total number of villages in the country.

Forests are closely connected with the livelihoods of people living in the forest fringes, as they depend on forest produce for self-consumption and cash incomes. Forests also support grazing of nearly 60% of the livestock in the country and are used for collection of headloads of firewood for the sale in the market.

Wildlife protection in the eastern ghats

3734. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have distanced itself from wildli protection in the Eastern Ghats;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are not interes* preserving wildlife in the Eastern Ghats;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this change of attitude of Government in the last two years towards wildlife in the Eastern Ghats;

(d) the names of wildlife sanctuaries in the Eastern Ghats; and

(e) the steps proposed to send officers to visit such sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No Sir. All efforts are being made by the Central and State Governments for conserving and protecting the wildlife in the Eastern Ghats.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The names of wildlife sanctuaries notified by the respective State Governments in the Eastern Ghats, are placed at Statement (See below).

(e) All these sanctuaries are regularly visited by forest officers for execution, monitoring and/or supervision of the various management prescriptions for conservation and maintaining a viable population of wildlife.

Statement

Names of Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Eastern Ghats

No.	State	Name of Sanctuary
1.	Orissa Andhra	Baisipali Chandaka - Dampara Karalapat Kothagarh Lakhari Valley Papikonda Kambalakonda

Flexible Complementary Scheme

3735. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3401 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 2005 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are number of scientists in G.B. Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, Uttaranchal who are continuously denied the benefit of flexible complementary scheme for scientists for last five years;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to this the research work in the said institute is being badly affected as the said scientists are highly demoralized; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take serious view of this situation in the institute and take appropriate action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. No scientist in the Institute has been denied benefits under Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS) in the last five years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.